

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010), a total of 770,618 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 78,585 tons or 11% above the 2008-2009 reported tonnage of 692,033 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2009-2010 was 583,807 tons which is an increase of 176,405 tons or 43% above the farm use tonnage for 2008-2009 of 407,402. Non-farm use tonnage for 2009-2010 was 186,811 tons which is a decrease of 97,820 tons or 34% below the 2008-2009 reported tonnage of 284,631.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 324,855 tons sold during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 50,080 tons or 13% below fiscal year 2008-2009 reported tonnage of 374,935.